A Full and True Account of a moſt Horrid and Barbarous Deſign, intended to be Executed upon the Body of Mr. J. Frampton, *a* Wire-worker, *Living upon* London-Bridge: *Who by Providence hath eſcaped the Wicked Conſpiracy of* Mary Roberts; *the Effects of which was to have ended in his Death, and utter Ruine of his whole Family. Which is as followeth,*

THE Chief Actoreſs in this Affair was the aforeſaid *Mary Roberts*, who having been kept ſome Years by a certain Gentleman in *London*, about a Month ſince (and not without ſome good Reaſon) the ſaid Perſon and She hath parted; now ſhe miſtruſting that the Cauſe of her Uſage was from the Suggeſtion, and through the Means of the aforeſaid *J. Frampton*, who is an intimate Friend of the Gentleman; ſhe to ſatisfie her Revenge, which Paſſion in Women is always Cruel to Extremity, did contrive how to Murder the ſaid *Frampton* in the manner as followeth. About three Weeks ſince ſhe concludes with her ſelf to hire ſome Ruffian to murder him; and to Effect which, ſhe accordingly goes to *Lincoln's-Inn-Fields*, there thinking to find out amongſt the *Ring*, ſome Inſtruments that were fit to execute her bloody Deſign; and at laſt chanc'd upon two (who as ſhe thought) were fit for her turn; the one of which was a Black-moor who uſes that *Ring*, ſhe urging ſhe had a great Secret to diſcloſe to them, and that if they would do a little Buſineſs for her, ſhe would well Reward them; they ſeem'd to be willing, ſo ſhe then told them the whole Matter, which was to murder one *J. Frampton*, giving them Directions how to find him, and for a Reward ſhe gave them each a Crown down, and Contracted to give them Two Guineas more

when the Thing was done; likewiſe ſhe told the Black, that if he would kill him, ſhe would ſettle 20 *l. per Annum* upon him for his Life, and to have good Security for the Payment of the ſame, all which the Black confeſs'd ſince, before divers Witneſſes; which they both willingly embrac'd, and in order to Effect it, they went both the next Morning to his Houſe, and when they came, there was only the Boy in the Shop; the Black ask'd the Boy for his Maſter, but he, the Boy told them, was not ſtirring; they began to enter in ſome Diſcourſe with the Boy, asking him ſome Queſtions, as what Houſe his Maſter kept, and to what Places he went to in the Day, and motion'd to the Boy of giving him ſome Guineas to do ſomething: However, they made no further Progreſs in it that Morning, but went away, but return'd again the Day following; in the Interim the Boy declar'd to his Miſtreſs what they ſaid; when they came again, the Boy call'd his Miſtreſs down to them, ſhe began to be Inquiſitive with them, and talking a little ſharply to them, they both fearing ſomething, withdrew ſuddenly, and got out of the Shop, & meeting with theſe Repulſes, had Thoughts of going no more about it; but went immediately to the aforeſaid *Mary Roberts*, and told her that they had perform'd their Bargain (namely, that they had been at *Framptons*, and Surprizing him alone in the Shop, fell upon him and beat him, Wounding of him in ſeveral Places, leaving him in a Condition not likely to Live long in this World; after that they had (becauſe ſhe deſir'd it) broke his Windows, leaving a Mob about his Houſe; ſhe crediting there Report, not doubting but they had done it; gives them the two Guineas, and furthermore promis'd, that ſhe would be as good as her Word to the Black: Next Morning ſhe takes a Coach, hugging her ſelf in her late good Succeſs, and goes to *London-bridge* only with one Perſon, who has ſince Confeſs'd the Matter; when ſhe came there ſhe Lights, and going to a Houſe near the Place, ſhe inquir'd concerning it; but finding how it was, ſhe preſently ſwore that ſhe was Cheated of her Money, that Revenge was hers, and by the Eternal God ſhe'd have it; upon this ſhe goes to one *Jennins*, a Fellow who beats a Drum and ſings to't at Weddings, applying her ſelf to him in the ſame Manner, as ſhe had to the former, offering him a good Gratuity; he perceiving what her intent was, Anſwers, Why what would you have me do to him, would you have me kill him. If there comes a Preſs out, I'll get him Preſs'd for you, if that will do you any kindneſs, ſhe hearing him make ſuch an Anſwer, made a ſlight Excuſe and went her Ways; telling the Perſon that was with her, ſeeming angry, that ſhe wonder ſhe ſhould bring her to ſuch a Blockhead as that was.

Immediately after this, her Maid paſſing along in *High-Holbourn* met with one

one Mr. *Hartly*, who would have her Drink with him, which ſhe readily Conſented to, thinking him a fit Perſon to perform her Miſtreſſes Buſineſs, ſo while they were drinking the Maid very frankly told him the whole Matter of her Miſtreſſes Intentions, and how ſhe was ſerv'd: he ſeem'd at the firſt to be ſcrupulous, but at length, with the Maids Intreaties, he did comply; ſaying, that he would undertake the Thing for her Miſtreſs; ſo having talk'd about it ſome time, they both went to a Houſe, where the Miſtreſs came in a Coach to them; and being made acquainted by the Maid, that that Gentleman was for her Turn, and a Man of Honour, the Lady was pleas'd with her new Ingin, ſo they ſoon ſtruck the Bargain; ſo the Maid and he came away together in Purſuance to their Deſign, and comes to *London-Bridge*, near *Frampton*'s Houſe; where Mr. *Hartly* leaves the Maid, pretending to go ſeek a Man to help him in the Buſineſs, but inſtead of that goes directly to *Framptons* Houſe, and finds him at home, where he related to him the whole Matter; which did not a little ſurpriſe him, when he reflected upon the Barbarity of the Matter, but conſidering the Danger of his Circumſtances, goes along with Mr. *Hartly* to a Friend of his who he thought capable to adviſe him; his Friend ſoon put him in a Method, whereby to prevent any further Danger which was this: His Friend and Mr. *Hartly* goes preſently back to the Maid who waited hard by for his Return; when they came into the Houſe to her ſhe ſeem'd a little ſhy, but ſatisfied by Mr. *Hartly* of the fitneſs of the Perſon, together with his Tragical Expreſſions, ſhe took Heart and ſaid that this of all the reſt ſeem'd be the likelieſt Man; and the Maid further ſaid, that her Miſtreſs had been diſappointed ſeveral Times already, and that now ſhe was Reſolv'd to ſee it done her ſelf, or to have ſome Friend whom ſhe could truſt to ſee; but Mr. *Framptons* Friend told her, that they would take him out from the Town and in ſome Convenient Place there do it; having heard all his Propoſals liked of them, and went and told her Miſtreſs, who alſo liked of it too; and likewiſe told her Miſtreſs, they would have nothing beforehand, but when the buſineſs was done, would have five Guineas, and that it ſhould be perform'd to their Hearts Content, all which the Miſtreſs agreed to, and lik'd off, and bid the Maid haſten that it might be done. The Maid return'd with the Anſwer, that her Miſtreſs approvd of their Method, and urg'd the ſpeedy Execution of it; all things being thus concluded on, Mr. *Hartly*, Mr. *Framptons* Friend, and the Maid, went away to *Cupid*'s Gardens, being the Place fix'd for the Deſign, which was upon *Saturday*, being the Fourteenth of this Inſtant *May*. Where the Maid ſent for two or three of her Miſtreſs's Companions, and accordingly, in leſs than two

Hours,

Hours, came three Women, who were to be Spectators, no sooner they appear'd, but they sent Mr. *Hartly* away for Mr. *Frampton*, who was in a readiness to receive the Messenger, and came accordingly with him; who when the Women spy'd they knew, and his Friend stept up to them and said Ladies is not that he, they all Reply'd Yes, that's he that is gone in to the Arbor, follow him, and do your Business; so he went into the Arbor to Mr. *Frampton*, and seemingly fell upon, and with a Sheeps bladder which they had about them, fill'd with Blood, they all smear'd his Face and Body, he all the while lay Groaning: When they thought that it was well enough, they went out to the Women and ask'd them to come in, for that they had effectually done the Business; so one bolder then the rest came into the Arbor, and view'd the Body; which was so well Acted, that she had seen enough of the Spectacle, and having no sooner withdrawn to the rest of her Company, who stood waiting with impatience to hear the Joyful Tydings, which when they heard were well satisfied, and slid five Guineas into Mr. *Hartly*'s hands, which they had no sooner done, but were unfortunatly seiz'd on by a Constable, who waited there upon the Matter; all which the suppos'd dead Body hearing, arose and walk'd to Captain *Cupid*'s Pump and there wash'd his Face and clear'd his Cloaths and went to Complement the Ladies, they being somewhat affrighted at the sight of the Constable and the Dead-man, sent away a Message in all hast to *Mary Roberts* to come and Comfort them, who coming in hopes to rejoyce with her Friends, was no sooner Landed on the Shore, but to her disappointment was likewise seiz'd on by the Constable, from thence they were all carried before two Justices of the Peace, who were then at *Fox* Hall, where they were examin'd; upon their Examination they at first behav'd themselves very impudently, which could not be expected any otherwise from such Persons as they were, but the Matter was soon prov'd too plain upon them, and their *Mittimus* was made for the County Jail, but they are since admitted to Bail.

If any Person doubts of the Truth of this Relation, let them inform themselves at any of the Places before mentioned.

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